6   merging the first partially filled ATM cell and the second partially filled

7   ATM cell into a third ATM cell having a header that includes information

8   indicative of the number of partially filled ATM cells contained within the third

9   ATM cell.

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1   3.   (Amended) A method for merging partially filled ATM cells as in

2   claim 2 wherein the header of said third ATM cell [comprises header]further

3   includes information required to reconstruct the partially filled ATM cells

4   contained within the third ATM cell [at a receiving end].

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1   14.   (Amended) An ATM network, comprising:

2   a first node configured to identify partially filled ATM cells within an

3   ATM cell stream passing through the first node and to merge two or more of the

4   partially filled ATM cells in the cell stream into a merged cell, the merged cell

5   having a header that includes information indicative of the number of partially

6   filled ATM cells contained within the merged cell; and

7   a second node coupled to the first node and configured to identify a

8   merged ATM cells and to split the merged ATM cell into two or more partially

9   filled ATM cells.

Please add new claims 21-23 as follows.

1   21.   (New) An ATM cell, comprising:

2   a payload including information from two or more partially filled ATM

3   cells; and